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SIAM. No. 1 (1893).

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COPIES OF DESPATCHES

FROM

HER MAJESTY'S AMBASSADOR AT PARIS

RELATIVE TO THE

AGREEMENT BETWEEN GREAT BRITAIN AND FRANCE

FOR

CONSTITUTING A NEUTRAL STATE BETWEEN THEIR POSSESSIONS IN INDO-CHINA.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
December 1893.

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Copies of Despatches from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris relative to the Agreement between Great Britain and France for constituting a Neutral State between their Possessions in Indo-China.

No. 1.

The Marquis of Dufferin to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received August 2.)

My Lord, *Paris, August* 1, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a Protocol which was signed yesterday at Paris by M. Develle and myself, whereby the Governments of France and England agree to recognize the necessity of erecting a buffer State between their respective possessions in Indo-China.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN AND AVA.

Inclosure in No. 1.

Protocol signed by the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava and M. Develle.

EN vue de prévenir les difficultés qui pourraient naître d'un contact direct entre elles, les deux Puissances sont d'accord pour reconnaître la nécessité de constituer, au moyen de sacrifices et d'abandons réciproques, une zone neutre entre leurs possessions.

Les limites de la zone neutre seront déterminées ultérieurement.

(Signé) JULES DEVELLE.
DUFFERIN AND AVA.

Le 31 *Juillet*, 1893.

(Translation.)

WITH a view of obviating the difficulties which might arise from a direct contact between them, the two Powers are agreed to recognize the necessity of constituting, by means of mutual sacrifices and concessions, a neutral zone between their possessions.

The limits of this neutral zone shall be subsequently determined.

(Signed) JULES DEVELLE.
DUFFERIN AND AVA.

July 31, 1893.

No. 2.

The Marquis of Dufferin to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received December 4.)

My Lord, *Paris, December* 1, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith the original of the Protocol signed by the Representatives of this Embassy and of the French Foreign Office, to whom was delegated the task of determining the configuration of the neutral zone, which, in accordance with the terms of the Protocol of the 31st July, signed by M. Develle and myself, is to be constituted between Her Majesty's and the French Republic's possessions in Indo-China. As your Lordship will observe, the Protocol in question recommends that a Technical Commission should be appointed with the view of ascertaining the geographical and political features of the area it is intended to neutralize.

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I also inclose a second Protocol, signed by M. Develle and myself, which lays down as the leading principle of the proposed delimitation that the territory in question should comprise a breadth of not less than 50 miles between its eastern and western boundaries, accompanied by a recommendation that the Technical Commission should examine how the existing geographical and political characteristics of this region can be most conveniently harmonized with the foregoing desideratum. The Protocol also contains a reciprocal engagement precluding either Power from seeking to obtain exclusive advantages to the detriment of the other within the State to be thus constituted.

I also append two notes which have been exchanged between M. Develle and myself, in which an assurance is conveyed that neither England nor France has any intention of seeking to monopolize the rights of transit, whether by land or by water, through the province of Kyaing Hung.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN AND AVA.

Inclosure 1 in No. 2.

Protocol signed by the French and English Delegates for the discussion of the Buffer State on the Upper Mekong.

THE Undersigned, named by their respective Governments, in order to examine in what manner, by means of reciprocal contributions, an intermediary zone might be constituted between the British and French possessions in the region of the Upper Mekong;

Being arrested in the course of their labours by the difficulty of determining, according to positive data, the limits and the geographical configuration of the different provinces situated in that region;

Have recognized, by common agreement, that in order to establish, under normal geographical conditions and without causing disintegration, a zone of sufficient extent, it would be desirable to proceed to an inquiry on the spot by Technical Agents of the two countries.

(Signed) E. C. H. PHIPPS.
H. AUSTIN LEE.

LES Soussignés, désignés par leurs Gouvernements respectifs pour examiner de quelle manière pourrait être constituée, au moyen de contributions réciproques, une zône intermédiaire entre les possessions Françaises et Anglaises dans la région du Haut-Mékong;

S'étant trouvés arrêtés, au cours de leurs travaux, par la difficulté de déterminer, d'après des données certaines, les limites et la configuration géographique des diverses provinces situées dans cette région;

Ont reconnu, d'un commun accord, que, pour établir, dans des conditions géographiques normales et sans occasionner de morcellement, une zône d'une étendue suffisante, il conviendrait de faire procéder à une enquête sur place, par des Agents Techniques des deux pays.

Fait à Paris, le 25 Novembre, 1893.

(Signé) JUSSERAND.
PAUL RÉVOIL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 2.

Protocol signed by the Marquis of Dufferin and M. Develle.

THE Undersigned, having taken cognizance of the Protocol signed by the English and French Commissioners on this day, and having approved it, have recognized, by common agreement, that the Technical Agents designated to proceed to the Upper Mekong should not lose sight of the following points:—

1. The geographical examination which they will have to undertake will deal with the course of the Mekong from its entry into Kyaing Chaing until its entry into Luang Prabang, with the limits of the Pro-

LES Soussignés, ayant pris connaissance du Protocole en date de ce jour signé par les Commissaires Français et Anglais, et y ayant donné leur approbation, ont reconnu, d'un commun accord, que les Agents Techniques désignés pour se rendre sur le Haut-Mékong ne devront pas perdre de vue les points suivants:—

1. L'examen géographique auquel ils devront se livrer, portera sur le cours du Mékong, depuis son entrée dans le Kieng-Kheng jusqu'à son entrée dans le Luang-Prabang; sur les limites de la Province de

vince of Kyaing Chaing, and with those of that portion of Muang Nan which lies to the north of the river.

2. The breadth which the two Contracting Powers propose to give to the intermediary zone between the British and French possessions is, in so far as the geographical and political configuration of the country will allow, to be about 80 superficial kilometres. The Technical Agents shall note carefully what geographical and political limits would best attain this object.

3. It is agreed that the navigation, transit, and means of communication in the zone thus constituted shall be free from every impediment, each of the Contracting Parties undertaking not to seek any advantage which is not equally secured to the other.

(Signed) DUFFERIN AND AVA.

Kieng-Kheng, et sur celles de la partie de Nan au nord du fleuve.

2. La largeur que les deux Puissances Contractantes se proposent de donner à la zône intermédiaire entre les possessions Françaises et Anglaises est, dans la mesure où la configuration géographique et politique du pays le permettra de 80 kilom. de marche, environ. Les Agents Techniques devront noter soigneusement quelles limites géographiques et politiques atteindraient le mieux ce but.

3. Il est entendu que la navigation, le transit et les moyens de communication seront libres de toute entrave dans la zône ainsi constituée, chacune des Parties Contractantes s'engageant à ne rechercher aucun avantage qui ne soit également assuré à l'autre.

Fait à Paris, le 25 Novembre 1893.

(Signé) JULES DEVELLE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 2.

The Marquis of Dufferin to M. Develle.

My dear M. Develle, *Paris, December* 1, 1893.

IN answer to the question that you were good enough to address to me on Tuesday, with reference to the rumour that we had come to an agreement with China concerning the State of Kyaing Hung, I beg to inform you that at present no such Treaty has been signed, and that we have no intention of seeking to obtain any monopoly, either for railways, Steam-boat Companies, or any other mode of transit or communication, to the detriment of any similar French commercial undertakings. It is understood that in the above respects the field is left as open to French as to English enterprise.

In acknowledging the receipt of this note, perhaps you will kindly intimate the willingness of the French Government to accede to a reciprocal engagement.

Believe me, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN AND AVA.

Inclosure 4 in No. 2.

M. Develle to the Marquis of Dufferin.

Cher Lord Dufferin, *Paris, le* 1er *Décembre*, 1893.

VOUS avez bien voulu me faire savoir, par votre lettre de ce jour, qu'aucun Traité n'a été signé, jusqu'ici, entre la Grande-Bretagne et la Chine, au sujet de l'État de Xieng Hung, et que l'Angleterre n'a nullement l'intention de chercher à obtenir aucun monopole, soit pour les chemins-de-fer ou Compagnies de Navigation, soit pour tout autre mode de transit ou communication, au détriment d'entreprises commerciales Françaises de même ordre. Il est entendu que le champ devra demeurer libre, à cet égard, pour les entreprises Françaises et Anglaises. Je m'empresse de vous accuser réception de cette communication, dont je prends acte bien volontiers. Réciproquement et conformément à votre demande, j'ai l'honneur de vous faire savoir que la délimitation des possessions Françaises, du côté de Xieng Hung, n'a pas encore été faite, mais que, dans les négociations que le Gouvernement de la République aura à suivre, à ce sujet, avec le Gouvernement Chinois, il compte se guider d'après les principes mêmes que vous avez bien voulu énoncer dans votre lettre de ce jour, et auxquels je ne peux qu'adhérer sans réserve.

Agréez, &c.

(Signé) J. DEVELLE.

(Translation.)

Dear Lord Dufferin, *Paris, December* 1, 1893.

YOU were good enough to inform me in your letter of to-day that no Treaty has yet been signed between Great Britain and China on the subject of the State of Kyaing Hung, and that England has no intention of seeking to obtain any monopoly, either for railways, Steam-boat Companies, or any other mode of transit or communication, to the detriment of French commercial enterprises of the same kind. It is understood that, in this respect, the field will be left open to French and English enterprise. I hasten to acknowledge the reception of this communication, of which I gladly take note. In return, and in accordance with your request, I have the honour to inform you that the delimitation of the French possessions on the side of Kyaing Huug has not yet been made, but that, in the negotiations on this subject which the Government of the Republic will have to carry on with the Chinese Government, they intend to be guided by the same principles as are laid down by you in your note of to-day, to which I have only to adhere without reserve.

Receive, &c.

(Signed) J. DEVELLE,

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